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ment with fenders, all to be made by the Massachusetts Railroad Commission. Railway taxation is to be investigated in Connecticut.

Election laws have two investigators. The Pennsylvania commission of 1911 was continued until 1913 and Oregon authorized an investigation of election and registration laws.

Education is prolific in subjects for investigation. Massachusetts reports on local and state share of cost, industrial education in textiles, high school education, part time schools, teachers' pensions and state supervision of schools, all to be made by the state board of education; Indiana has a commission on industrial and agricultural education; Wisconsin on text-book prices and conditions; and Delaware on higher education of women.

Women's work and wages caused several investigations, one of the most important because the first of its kind in this country being on wages of women and children and the advisability of establishing minimum wage boards in Massachusetts; Connecticut reports on conditions of labor of women and children in state institutions.

Other investigations under way by special commissions are: public utilities, county and township organization, drainage, road and bridge laws, fire insurance and old age insurance, and rivers, lakes and harbors, all to be reported on in Illinois; segregation, care and treatment of defectives, feeble-minded and epileptics, in Pennsylvania; recording titles to property, in Pennsylvania; infantile paralysis, in Massachusetts; finances of cities and towns in Massachusetts, by the director of the bureau of statistics; metropolitan plan of Boston; rural life conditions, in Nebraska; state engineering expense and organization, Massachusetts; water storage and conservation, New York; city and county government of Albany, New York; chestnut tree blight, Pennsylvania; banking and insurance laws codification, Georgia; manufacturing conditions in cities of first and second classes to promote safety; fire insurance rates and classification, Wisconsin; local government—uniform methods, Georgia; and port conditions and pier extensions, New York, New Jersey and United States government jointly.

JOHN A. LAPP.

Reports of Occupational Diseases and Accidents. In 1911, for the first time in America, six states enacted laws requiring physicians to report cases of occupational diseases. These states are California, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, New York and Wisconsin. These laws have many points in common, and most commonly the diseases

to be reported are: anthrax, compressed air illness, and poisoning from lead, phosphorus, arsenic and mercury or their compounds.

In Illinois employers are required to cause all employees who come into direct contact with such dangerous processes as those involved in the use of sugar of lead, white lead, lead chromate, litharge, red lead, arsenate of lead, paris green, or in the manufacture of brass or in the smelting of lead or zinc, to be examined once every calendar month by a licensed physician, who must report immediately to the State Board of Health the result of the examination. If a diseased condition is found, the physician must report the name, address, age, sex, last place of employment of the patient, the name of the employer, and the nature and probable extent of the disease. A copy of the report must be transmitted by the Board of Health to the Department of Factory Inspection.

In most instances the notification by the physician is to include as a minimum the name and full postal address and place of employment of the patient, and the disease. Michigan specifically requires in addition, "the length of time of such employment," and New York adds, "with such other and further information as may be required by the commissioner of labor." In four states the reports are to be sent to the State Board of Health and thereby transmitted to the department most directly interested in industrial inspection within the state. In Connecticut and New York notification is direct to the commissioner of labor. In every state except Connecticut there is a penalty for failing to report, but in all states except California and Connecticut, where a fee of fifty cents is allowed, no compensation is paid for reports.

This pioneer legislation is part of a definite effort to arouse wider interest among physicians in the subject of industrial hygiene, and to secure for public use a regular supply of information from those who should be best informed on the subject. This legislation is based on twelve years experience with similar measures in England, where in 1900 more than 1,000 workers in that country were reported as suffering from lead poisoning. In 1910 the number was only 553, although the system of recording each case has steadily improved. In some branches of the dangerous trades in England this occupational poison is now only one fourth as serious in its extent as it was ten years ago.

The desirability of the uniform reporting of industrial injuries in the different states is so apparent to those who wish to make intelligent use of such statistics rather than merely to compile columns of figures,

that an effort has already been made to encourage the adoption of a standard schedule. A national committee on standard schedule was appointed last September and it is now at work on a plan for uniform reporting; a tentative draft is already completed. To the rather meager information specifically required as a minimum under the various laws, the state officials are encouraged to add as many facts as possible through the use of more elaborate blanks or by special investigations. One year's experience in securing this information in half a dozen states should indicate whether the standard schedule now in preparation is practicable for general use among physicians. Already, in several states, information of great significance has been secured by state authorities under this law, and individual physicians as well as boards of health are preparing for the study and prevention of occupational diseases.

Similar legislation will be urged by the American Association for Labor Legislation until all of the main industrial states are included.

More complete data with reference to industrial accidents was required by law last year in thirteen states and for the United States. There is an apparent tendency to require the notification of practically all accidents rather than merely serious or fatal ones. Supplemental reports, moreover, are now required in a large number of states after the expiration of a specified period following the accident.

JOHN B. ANDREWS.

State Fire Prevention. That fire prevention is firmly established as a state function is proved by the rapidity with which state legislatures, confronted by the enormous figures representing the fire losses of the country, are creating state bureaus for fire prevention. Of the twenty-five existing state fire marshals, eight hold their office under enactments of 1911,—in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

A separate analysis of these new laws would be superfluous. There is a great similarity in certain of their details, such as: the organization of the state office; rules for investigating and reporting fires; powers of state and local officers in the performance of their duties; fees and mileage; annual reports; etc. Certain variations and additions occur. Fees granted to local officers, not already salaried officers, vary slightly, as does mileage. In Michigan, fire insurance companies are required to report all fire losses to the state bureau, this distinctly in addition to similar reports made to any other state office. The